

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development**Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)****Grant Recipient: Copper Valley Historical Society****Project Title:****Copper Valley Historical Society - Museum Renovation****State Funding Requested: \$ 50,000**
One-Time Need**House District: 12 - F****Brief Project Description:**

The community museum is an old log building with rotting foundation. This grant would put cement pad under the building and provide energy efficiency improvements and electrical upgrades.

Funding Plan:**Total Cost of Project: \$50,000**Funding Secured*Amount FY*Other Pending Requests*Amount FY*Anticipated Future Need*Amount FY*

There is no other funding needed

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

The Geo. I. Ashby Memorial Museum in Copper Center is a log building constructed during the 1898 Gold Rush. The bottom logs are rotting, which causes the building to shift and difficult to operate the door. Walls have gaps, and the ceiling has no insulation.

This grant will replace the bottom logs that are rotting, and will place the building on a cement pad. Six windows will be replaced, chinking will be added to the walls, a new floor will be installed, and old electrical wiring will be replaced.

Project Timeline:

Project is expected to take one calendar year (ie. one construction season) to complete upon receipt of the grant.

Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:

Copper Valley Historical Society

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

Contact Name: Fred Williams

Phone Number: (907) 822-3922

Address: Copper Valley Historical Society

PO Box 84

Copper Center, AK 99573

Email:

Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? ☒ Yes ☐ No



George I. Ashby Memorial Museum Renovation Project Copper Valley, Alaska

*Copper Valley Historical Society
P.O. Box 84, Copper Center, AK 99573*

Project Summary

The Copper Valley Historical Society is a non-profit organization interested in protecting and sharing the historical stories and artifact's of Copper Valley's colorful past. This project seeks to safeguard the artifacts with adequate facilities and provide enough space for the many visitors who frequent the museum.

Requested Amount: \$60,000

INTRODUCTION:

The Copper Valley Historical Society (CVHS) has been a non-profit organization based in the Upper Copper Basin since 1978. The membership is interested in protecting and sharing the historical stories and artifacts of Copper Valley.

The focus of their efforts has been on the housing and display of the collection at the George I. Ashby Memorial Museum which opened in 1984. Artifacts are housed in two rustic log cabins in Copper Center. Its collection includes treasures from the 1898 Gold Rush era, the Kennecott Copper Mine and many other historic photos and documents, along with some items reflective of the area's Native cultural history. It is staffed by museum volunteers and a part-time employee. Over 7,500 visitors visit the museum in 2007, with visitors increasing every year.

The museum is located next to the historical Copper Center Lodge and within a mile of the Copper River Princess Wilderness Lodge. It is frequented by self-guided visitors, along with many brought with locally-operated tours.

PROJECT PURPOSE:

Current museum structures are inadequate for not only the proper protection of exhibits but also lack sufficient space and facilities for visitors and staff. CVHS has begun planning for this growth with funding provided by the State of Alaska, with support from the Copper Valley Development Association. The planning process is responding to collection growth and increased visitation with an extension and renovation which will provide artifact protection and improve the visitor experience over the long term.



COPPER VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
BOX 84 COPPER CENTER ALASKA 99573



January 22, 2008

Dear Copper Valley Representative,

The Copper Valley Historical Society is a non-profit organization based in the Copper Basin since 1978. The membership of over 60 residents is interested in protecting and sharing the historical stories and artifacts of Copper Valley's colorful past.

The focus of our efforts has been on the housing and display of our collection at the George I. Ashby Memorial Museum which opened in 1984. Artifacts are housed in two rustic log cabins in Copper Center. It is staffed by museum volunteers and a part-time employee. This season over 7,750 visitors visited our museum, an increase of 1,200 from 2006.

We recently completed major repairs to the roof and developed an annex building. We are planning another renovation project that will address concerns with the foundation of the rustic but aging building and add some additional display space. These enhancements will provide artifact protection and improve the visitor experience. We thank you for your support for our project development, but will need additional funds to proceed with the actual renovations.

We have enclosed a project summary and for your review. Please feel free to contact us with any questions. Thank you again for your interest and support.

Sincerely,

Fred Williams, President
Copper Valley Historical Society
enclosure

(907) 822-3922

They are now seeking additional funding through private foundations as well as state and federal sources for this project.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY AND TIMETABLE:

Winter 2007-2008:

- Planning and scoping meetings with CVHS volunteers and interested community members
- Building membership, sponsorships and interest for project with organizations, businesses and agencies through programs, membership drive and open house
- Continuation of curatorial and catalogue work
- Research and writing to potential funding sources

Summer 2008-2009:

- Continue fundraising efforts from local individuals and businesses and outreach to other potential sources outside the region
- Complete evaluation and plans for renovation work.
- Planning for implementation with disrupted facilities

Summer 2009:

- Implementation of renovation and expansion project

CURRENT MUSEUM SUPPORTERS:

State of Alaska

Copper Center Lodge

Copper Rail Depot

NRCS- RC&D Program

Copper Valley Development Association

Copper Valley Chamber of Commerce

Robert and Jeanne Sunder

Copper Nuggets 4H

Fishing Widow

Rasmuson Foundation

Princess Lodge

National Park Service

Copper Valley Electric Association

Copper Valley Telephone Cooperative

Museum Membership (60)

CONTACTS:

Fred Williams & Barb Sanders

Copper Valley Historical Society

P.O. Box 84

Copper Center, AK 99573

(907) 822-3922 or 822-3669

Copper Valley Development Association

Clair Scribner, Program Manager

Arlene Rosenkrans, RC&D Coordinator

P.O. Box 9, Glennallen, AK 99588

(907) 822-5001 fax: (907) 822-5009

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